

Claims

- [c1] 1.A method for determining the fit of a weather strip for sealing a closure panel of a vehicle, comprising the steps of:
attaching at least one flexible carrier, having a transferable disclosing agent disposed thereupon, to a portion of said closure panel which normally contacts the weather strip whenever the closure panel is in a closed position;
closing the closure panel to allow removal of a portion of the disclosing agent from the carrier;
opening the closure panel; and
reading the pattern of the disclosure agent removed from the flexible carrier due to the interaction of the closure panel and the flexible carrier with the weather strip, so as to identify whether an interference fit is present between the weather strip and the closure panel.
- [c2] 2.A method according to Claim 1, wherein said weather strip is positioned between a closure panel and a body comprising a portion of the vehicle.
- [c3] 3.A method according to Claim 1, wherein a plurality of flexible carriers having disclosing agent disposed thereon is applied to the closure panel.
- [c4] 4.A method according to Claim 1, wherein said closure panel comprises a passenger door.
- [c5] 5.A method according to Claim 1, wherein said closure panel comprises a vision unit.
- [c6] 6.A method according to Claim 5, wherein said vision unit comprises a windshield.
- [c7] 7.A method according to Claim 1, wherein said disclosing agent comprises a pressure sensitive transfer coating.
- [c8] 8.A method according to Claim 1, wherein said disclosing agent comprises a powder which is sprayed onto said flexible carrier.
- [c9] 9.A method according to Claim 1, wherein said disclosing agent comprises a

frangible coating which is deposited onto said flexible carrier.

[c10] 10.A method according to Claim 1 , wherein said flexible carrier comprises a tape having an adhesive for securing the flexible carrier to the closure panel.

[c11] 11.A method for determining the fit of a weather strip positioned between a closure panel and the body of a vehicle, comprising the steps of:
attaching a plurality of flexible carriers, each having a transferable disclosing agent disposed thereupon, to a portion of said closure panel which is designed to normally contact the weather strip when the closure panel is closed;
moving the closure panel to a position in which the weather strip is confined between the closure panel and the body of the vehicle, so as to permit transfer of the disclosing agent from the flexible carrier to the weather strip at any location where the closure panel and flexible carrier are in contact with the weather strip with a normal force exceeding a predetermined threshold; and
reading the pattern of the disclosing agent transferred from the flexible carriers to the weather strip, so as to identify whether an interference fit is present between the weather strip and the closure panel.

[c12] 12.A method according to Claim 11 , wherein said disclosing agent comprises a pressure sensitive coating.

[c13] 13.A method according to Claim 11 , wherein said disclosing agent comprises a frangible coating which is sprayed onto said flexible carrier.

[c14] 14.A method according to Claim 11 , wherein said disclosing agent comprises a frangible powder which is deposited onto said flexible carrier.

[c15] 15.A method according to Claim 11 , wherein said flexible carrier comprises a tape having an adhesive backing.

[c16] 16.A method according to Claim 11 , wherein said disclosing agent is transferred from the flexible carriers to the weather strip.

[c17] 17.A system for determining the fit between a closure panel and a weather strip attached to a body of a vehicle, comprising:
a flexible carrier;

a disclosing agent disposed upon a first surface of the flexible carrier; and
an attachment agent, disposed upon a second surface of the flexible carrier,
thereby permitting the flexible carrier to be removably positioned between a
portion of said weather strip and a portion of the closure panel which are
normally in contact when the closure panel is in a closed position, so as to allow
a portion of the disclosing agent to be displaced from the flexible carrier when
the closure panel is contacted with the weather strip.

[c18] 18.A system for determining the fit between a closure panel and a weather strip
attached to a body of a vehicle according to Claim 17, wherein the disclosing
agent which is displaced from the flexible carrier is transferred from the flexible
carrier to a portion of the weather strip which is in contact with the closure
panel when the closure panel is in a closed position.

[c19] 19.A system for determining the fit between first and second machine parts
having a first mating surface integral with said first machine part and a second
mating surface integral with said second machine part, with said system
comprising:
a flexible carrier;
a disclosing agent disposed upon a first surface of the flexible carrier; and
an attachment agent, disposed upon a second surface of the flexible carrier,
thereby permitting the flexible carrier to be removably positioned upon the first
mating surface, so as to allow a portion of the disclosing agent to be removed
from the flexible carrier and transferred to the second mating surface when the
first mating surface is contacted with a portion of the second mating surface.

[c20] 20. An apparatus for preparing an interference indicating tape with a flexible
carrier having a disclosing agent disposed thereon, comprising:
roll mounted flexible carrier stock having first and second surfaces, with the
first surface coated with a pressure-sensitive adhesive;
a spray nozzle and supply mechanism for furnishing disclosing agent to the
spray nozzle; and
a feeder for drawing said flexible carrier stock from the roll and past the spray
nozzle, so as to permit the nozzle to deposit disclosing agent upon the second

surface of the flexible carrier.

[c21]

21. An apparatus for preparing an interference indicating system with a flexible carrier having a disclosing agent disposed thereon according to Claim 20 , further comprising a package for holding a plurality of flexible carriers bearing disclosing agent in a plastic container with a manually removable lid.

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